

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Ronald Berry on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Ronald Berry was born to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Berry Sr. in
3 Lexington, Kentucky, and was one of fifteen children; and

4 WHEREAS, at the young age of fifteen, Dr. Ronald Berry joined the Congress of
5 Racial Equality, better known as CORE; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Ronald Berry became director of CORE and fought for civil rights
7 and against racial injustice for over 30 years in the city of Lexington; and

8 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Dr. Ronald Berry and following peaceful
9 protests, sit-ins, demonstrations, marches, and petitions, Lexington became an integrated
10 city which led to better employment opportunities, fairer housing, and entrance into
11 restaurants and retail stores for Blacks; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Ronald Berry was a liaison between the Black community, police
13 department, and individuals with political aspirations, resulting in a better relationship
14 between the Black community and the police department; and

15 WHEREAS, during Dr. Ronald Berry's leadership and service, schools were
16 integrated with the hope of ensuring equal distribution of resources, including federal
17 funding. These resources helped revive Douglass Park with improved landscaping,
18 lighting, new architectural design, and a swimming pool; and

19 WHEREAS, when the pool was shut down, CORE intervened under Dr. Ronald
20 Berry's leadership resulting in the pool being reopened for the Black community; and

21 WHEREAS, around 1966, the Micro City Government program was founded and
22 directed by Dr. Ronald Berry. During this time, Lexington and the entire country
23 continued to have racial tension and injustice. Dr. Berry's guidance was sought to help
24 ease the tensions so communities could peacefully exist; and

25 WHEREAS, Micro City, under the guidance of Dr. Ronald Berry, rechanneled the
26 energy of the youth in the Lexington community by teaching them how to be productive
27 members of society. Mr. & Miss Black Lexington was conceived by Dr. Berry to instill

1 black pride, confidence, and empowerment that nothing is impossible with God; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Ronald Berry turns 80 years old on March 1, 2024;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
5 *Kentucky:*

6 ➔Section 1. The Senate celebrates and honors the accomplishments of Dr. Ronald
7 Berry and his service to the Lexington community on his 80th birthday.

8 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns today, it does so in honor of Dr. Ronald
9 Berry.

10 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this
11 Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas for delivery.